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Message Text

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PAGE 01 FREETO 01596 181505Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
----------190358Z 063097 /12
R 181356Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5393
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SL
SUBJ: ELECTIONS IN BO DISTRICT POSTPONED AGAIN

REF: FREETOWN 1552

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE ANNOUNCED TUESDAY NIGHT, MAY 17, THAT ELECTIONS FOR THE EIGHT REMAINING PARLIAMENTARY SEATS IN BO DISTRICT HAVE BEEN POSTPONED AGAIN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT STATED THAT THE PRESENT SECURITY SITUATION IN AND AROUND THE DISTRICT WAS NOT CONDUCIVE FOR "FREE, FAIR AND PEACEFUL ELECTIONS". END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN LOU - DURING PAST TWO DAYS, EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED INCREASING REPORTS OF RECRUITMENT OF STRONG-ARM MEN BY BOTH APC AND SLPP TO CONVERGE ON BO DISTRICT DURING ELECTIONS
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PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 20. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL REPORTS, APC PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE HIRING ANYWHERE FROM 150 TO 200 THUGS FROM EACH OF THEIR DISTRICTS TO CONVERGE ON BO, WHILE SLPP POLITICANS WERE RECRUITING SIMILAR NUMBERS FROM SOUTHERN AND EASTERN REGIONS TO RESIST APC INCURSIONS.

3. BRIGADIER MOMOH, SIERRA LEONE ARMY FORCE COMMANDER, TOLD

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EMBOFFS PRIOR TO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE CANCELLED BECAUSE NUMBER OF "PRIVATE ARMIES" MOVING INTO BO DISTRICT WOULD HAVE LED TO EXTENSIVE BLOODSHED AND VIOLENCE. MOMOH SAID THAT SITUATION HAD BECOME SO DANGERIOUS THAT HE HAD MOVED ONE FULL COMPANY OF SIERRA LEONE ARMY TO BO DISTRICT AND HAD SENT A FIELD GRADE STAFF OFFICER THERE TO REPRESENT HIM. OTHER SOURCES EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF TRIBAL FIGHTING BECAME EXTENSIVE THE ARMY ITSELF MIGHT DISINTEGRATE INTO OPPOSING FACTTIONS. END LOU.
SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, PROVINCE, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977FREETO01596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770177-0934
Format: TEL
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770545/aaaabmso.tel
Line Count: 72
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 4c046e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 FREETOWN 1552
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2475362
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTIONS IN BO DISTRICT POSTPONED AGAIN
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c046e91-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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